



PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

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Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

Working in partnership
with the citizens of
Henrico County to create
the conditions for health.

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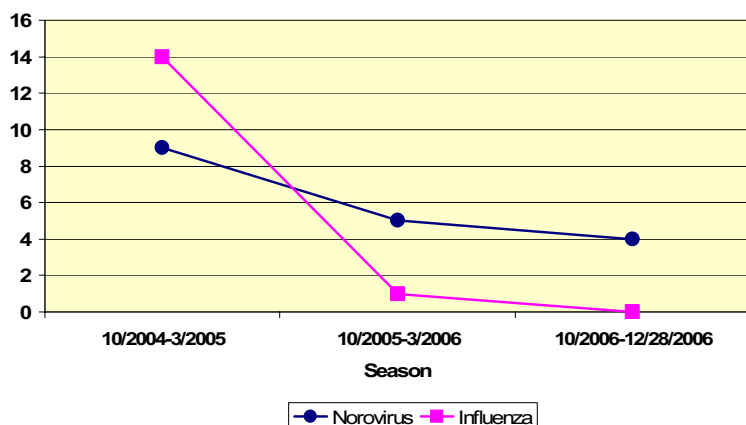
PANDEMIC ALERT PHASE: 3

Pandemic/Avian Flu Update: Human Cases - The deaths of two Egyptian women, ages 15 and 30, mark the latest cases of avian influenza H5N1. Egypt has reported a total of 17 human cases and 9 deaths from avian flu since its first human case was reported in March 2006. **Vaccine Prioritization Input** - CDC is asking the public to comment on vaccine prioritization to better define who to vaccinate first when there is a limited vaccine supply. See the following link for more information:

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/vaccine/index.html#vprioritization>

Communicable Disease Issues

Reported Outbreaks at Henrico's LTCF for 2004, 2005 and 2006 Seasons



Outbreaks: Surveillance data and disease reporting have identified a recent increase of gastroenteritis cases in Henrico (not necessarily unusual for this time of year). As illustrated above, Henrico has had between 5 and 9 reported norovirus outbreaks in long term care facilities (LTCF) the past two seasons between October and March. **An outbreak of norovirus should be considered whenever 3 or more residents or staff develop GI symptoms (vomiting, diarrhea, nausea) within one week** [This same threshold holds true for flu]. The health department's role in such outbreaks includes assistance with lab testing to identify the pathogen and provision of infection control recommendations. Recommended actions include cohorting staff, environmental cleaning with a 1:10 bleach solution, and restricting visitation and group activities. **RSV:** Although not reportable, we are aware of RSV in the local pediatric population. CDC's RSV surveillance also demonstrates a spike in the percentage of specimens positive for RSV throughout many parts of the country including our region. See: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/nrevss/rsvtrel.htm>

Seasonal Influenza Corner

Virginia 2006/2007 Influenza Surveillance

Activity Level: **Sporadic** (As of 12/23/2006)

CDC influenza surveillance data at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Emergency Preparedness

New Coordinator Staff: We are pleased to announce the addition of Augustine Doe as Pandemic Influenza and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator. Mr. Doe's role will be to coordinate the pandemic flu planning efforts of public and private organizations within the community, as well as to coordinate the MRC program (an organization of volunteer healthcare and non-healthcare professionals that are available to respond to local emergencies and disasters). **Health and Medical Advisory Group:** The next meeting of the Henrico County Health and Medical Advisory Group will be on Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 8:00 am in the Henrico County Human Services Building. The Health and Medical Advisory Group was established to facilitate coordinated planning for local health emergencies, and is made up of representatives from county government, hospitals, medical practices, pharmacies, long term care facilities, home health agencies, and other healthcare organizations. Contact Mike Magner at 501-7250 for details. All providers are welcome to participate!

Clinical Opportunity in Public Health

Henrico Health Department is seeking a part-time clinician to assist us with provision of care to adult and adolescent citizens who require evaluation and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. The health district operates a clinic every Wednesday morning from 8-12 at its east office on Nine Mile Road. Interested practitioners with a Virginia medical license should contact the health department at 501-4522 and look for employment details online at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/qihr/>

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